

Message Text

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71

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 L-03 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4686

DEA HQS WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 094620, DEA 8444, BOGOTA 3773 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SUBJECT AIRCRAFT CONTINUES IN CUSTODY GOC CUSTOMS MAGISTRATE IN SANTA MARTA. MAGISTRATE STATES THAT AIRCRAFT REGISTRY NUMBER IS N-5856N RPT N. DEA-BOGOTA FILES, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT AIRCRAFT MAY BE IDENTICAL TO CESSNA 402 B OWNED BY ROLAND W. WEITZEL OF COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO AND REGISTERED AS N-5856M RPT M. MISSION CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER.

1. MISSION HAS CONFIRMED FOLLOWING DETAILS SEIZURE SUBJECT AIRCRAFT FROM CUSTOMS COURT MAGISTRATE HANDLING CASE IN SANTA MARTA:

A. CESSNA N-5856 N RPT N WAS FOUND ABANDONED AT PRIVATE AIRSTRIP CALLED LA FE, NEAR CIENAGA, MAGDALENA. IT WAS SEIZED BY GOC CUSTOMS ON NOVEMBER 13, 1974. AIRCRAFT BELIEVED INVOLVED IN MARIJUANA SMUGGLING AND ABANDONED BECAUSE OF ENGINE FAILURE OR OTHER MECHANICAL FAULT. CUSTOMS INVESTIGATORS HAVE, HOWEVER, NOT RPT NOT DEVELOPED ANY FIRM PROOF OF NARCOTICS SMUGGLING.

B. ACCORDING CUSTOMS MAGISTRATE HANDLING CASE, CREW AND PASSENGERS ABANDONED AIRCRAFT AND THEN DISAPPEARED. THEY WERE NOT APPREHENDED AND NO ONE HAS FILED A FORMAL CLAIM TO RECOVER THE AIRCRAFT.

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C. LA FE IS A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP LOCATED ON A FARM OF THE

SAME NAME. AIRSTRIP IS REGISTERED AS A CLASS E INSTALLATION WITH GOC CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES. IT IS NOT KNOWN AS A SMUGGLERS AIRFIELD, BUT COULD EASILY BE USED AS SUCH WITH OR WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FARM OWNER. D. AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM BARRANQUILLA, AND IS NOW IN CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE IN SANTA MARTA AWAITING DISPOSITION.

2. ACCORDING TO DEA-BOGOTA FILES SUBJECT AIRCRAFT MAY BE IDENTICAL TO CESSNA 402 B N-5856M WHICH WAS IN 1974 REGISTERED TO ROLAND W. WEITZEL, 14 THAYER ROAD, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO. IN MID-1975, DEA-BOGOTA WAS APPROACHED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF WEITZEL, WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO RECOVER AIRCRAFT FROM GOC CUSTOMS. ACCORDING TO THIS REPRESENTATIVE, RICHARD C. MEDLIN, 3101 MARYLAND PARKWAY, LAS VEGAS, NEVEDA, WEITZEL HAD LOANED AIRCRAFT TO A FRIEND FOR A TRIP TO COLOMBIA. PAPERS PRESENTED TO DEA BY MEDLIN DESCRIBE AN AIRCRAFT NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THAT NOW IN CUSTODY CUSTOMS COURT SANTA MARTA.

3. MISSION WILL ATTEMPT DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION AND MORE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION SUBJECT AIRCRAFT.
VAKY

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Concepts: AIRCRAFT DETENTION
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